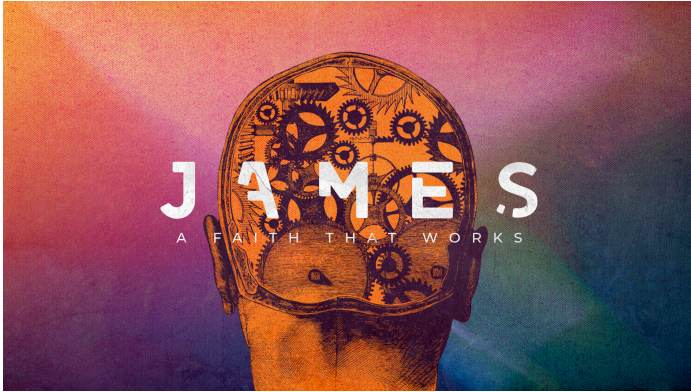


MESSAGE NOTES



Series: James
Message: Swallow Your Pride
Speaker: Rusty Coram
Date: March 14/15, 2020

¹ What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Don't they come from the evil desires at war within you? ² You want what you don't have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous of what others have, but you can't get it, so you fight and wage war to take it away from them. Yet you don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it. ³ And even when you ask, you don't get it because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure. ⁴ You adulterers! Don't you realize that friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God? I say it again: If you want to be a friend of the world, you make yourself an enemy of God. ⁵ What do you think the Scriptures mean when they say that the spirit God has placed within us is filled with envy? ⁶ But he gives us even more grace to stand against such evil desires. As the Scriptures say, "God opposes the proud but favors the humble." ⁷ So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world. ⁹ Let there be tears for what you have done. Let there be sorrow and deep grief. Let there be sadness instead of laughter, and gloom instead of joy. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up in honor.

James 4:1-10 (NLT)

1. God wants our full devotion and not merely our...

... emotion,

...traditions

...or good intentions.

2. My friendship with God is proven by how I treat people and things.

Here is the litmus test: my pleasure or His pleasure.

¹ What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Don't they come from the evil desires at war within you? ² You want what you don't have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous of what others have, but you can't get it, so you fight and wage war to take it away from them. Yet you don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it. ³ And even when you ask, you don't get it because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure.

James 4:1-3 (NLT)

3. Friendship with the world (adopting its values, beliefs and behaviors) violates our friendship with God.

You **adulterers!** Don't you realize that friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God? I say it again: If you want to be a friend of the world, you make yourself an enemy of God.

James 4:4(NLT)

Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being **polluted** by the world.

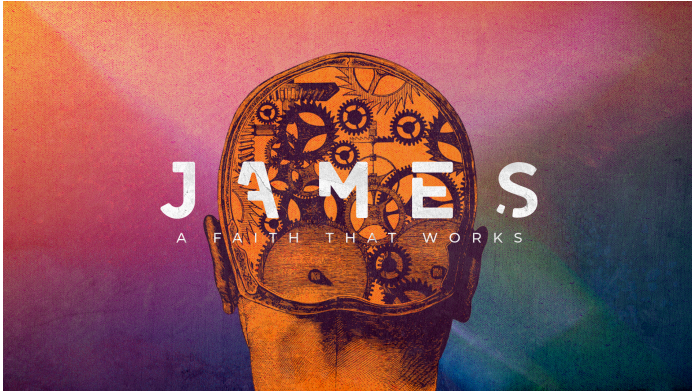
James 1:27 (NIV)

4. We become God's friends by on-going humble surrender to His will and His ways.

⁶ "God opposes the proud but favors the humble." ⁷ So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world. ⁹ Let there be tears for what you have done. Let there be sorrow and deep grief. Let there be sadness instead of laughter, and gloom instead of joy. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up in honor.

James 4:6-10 (NLT)

TAKE HOME SHEET



Series: James
Message: Swallow Your Pride
Speaker: Rusty Coram
Date: March 14/15, 2020

We live in a world with mixed values. We appreciate sacrificial service and heroism, but we can easily gravitate toward selfishness in our personal choices. We admire philanthropy but can quickly justify our own stinginess. We appreciate people who demonstrate true humility, while carrying an attitude of superiority and prejudice. Followers of Christ have been called to lives that are different than what the world fosters. In fact, we have been commissioned to be examples of God's heart and values to a watching world – lights in the darkness. Take some undistracted time to reflect on the following passages. Discuss them over a meal with friends or family and consider their meaning and how to apply them.

¹⁵ Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. ¹⁶ For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world. ¹⁷ And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever.

1 John 2:15-17 (NLT)

⁹ Then Jesus told this story to some who had great confidence in their own righteousness and scorned everyone else: ¹⁰ "Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a despised tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed this prayer: 'I thank you, God, that I am not a sinner like everyone else. For I don't cheat, I don't sin, and I don't commit adultery. I'm certainly not like that tax collector! ¹² I fast twice a week, and I give you a tenth of my income.' ¹³ But the tax collector stood at a distance and dared not even lift his eyes to heaven as he prayed. Instead, he beat his chest in sorrow, saying, 'O God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner.' ¹⁴ I tell you, this sinner, not the Pharisee, returned home justified before God. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

Luke 18:9-14 (NLT)

⁶ So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honor. ⁷ Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you.

1 Peter 5:6-7 (NLT)

...let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

Matthew 5:16 (NLT)

BIBLE TRANSLATIONS:

NIV – New International Version

NLT – New Living Translation